The actual management of wildland fire use requires strict planning and documentation procedures equivalent to those used on wildfires.

Fire use managers rely on the latest scientific information and technology to aid in managing fire use events. Some of the tools commonly used include: long-term fire behavior prediction models, real-time weather information, risk assessment models, GPS mapping, and Geographic Information System data.

Firefighter and public safety is the first priority every time. Development of the wildland fire implementation plan specifically addresses risks including threats to firefighters and public safety, urban development, and the environment.

Not only is firefighter and public safety our foremost concern when implementing wildland fire use, it is one of the primary reasons we are implementing the program. By allowing fire to resume its natural role on the landscape, we will eventually reduce the risk of larger and more intense fires which pose a greater risk to the safety of the public and also to the firefighters working to suppress these fires.

For more information:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot
Supervisor’s Office
406-363-7100
Darby Ranger Station
406-821-3913
Stevensville Ranger Station
406-777-5461
Sula Ranger Station
406-821-3201
West Fork Ranger Station
406-821-3269

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Wildland fire use is managing a lightning-caused fire burning in an approved area (including wilderness and non-wilderness) to play its natural role in the life cycle of the forest.

Not all lightning fires will be allowed to burn. Only carefully selected fires under certain conditions will be managed as wildland fire use. By carefully choosing which fires to suppress and which to actively manage for resource benefit, managers can begin to return forests to a more natural, resilient and healthy condition.

Wildland fire use monitor

Fire experts and research findings agree that fire has played a crucial role in shaping our wildlands for thousands of years and is vital for the survival of many plants and animals. The effects of fire range from subtle to extreme and are influenced by the condition of forest fuels as well as landscape and weather conditions.

The benefits of fire use include: reduced risk of catastrophic fire, wildlife habitat improvement, fuels reduction, improved forest health, and reduction in future fire suppression costs.

In many areas of the forest, nearly a century of suppression-oriented fire policy coupled with a very efficient initial attack program has contributed significantly to unnatural fuel conditions. Without periodic fire, forest vegetation accumulates to unnatural levels setting the stage for future fires that are larger, more intense, and more dangerous to fight.

Land management agencies are committed to a balanced fire program.

Wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments are tools available to land managers to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and realize resource benefits. A combination of ALL these management tools is needed to address our current forest fuel problems.